IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing adamantane having an APHA color of 5 or lower by isomerizing trimethylenenorbornane, the process comprising:

(A) ~~a reaction step of~~ isomerizing ~~a starting material~~ trimethylenenorbornane to produce a resultant liquid reaction mixture comprising adamantane;

(B) ~~a concentration step of~~ concentrating adamantane contained in the resultant liquid reaction mixture until the adamantane concentration is 10 to 50 mass%;

(C) ~~a crystallization step of~~ precipitating the adamantane concentrated in the resultant liquid via crystallization at an operating temperature of about -20 to 50°C and finally at a temperature at which the solubility of adamantane is about 0.5 to 25 mass% to provide a slurry;

(D) ~~a solid-liquid separation step of~~ separating adamantane crystals from the slurry ~~resulting from the crystallization~~ to provide isolated adamantane crystals wherein the degree of solid-liquid separation is such that a liquid content in a separated crystal cake is about 50 mass%;

(E) ~~a washing step of~~ washing the isolated adamantane crystals ~~isolated~~ at a temperature of -20 to 50°C using a solvent having a boiling point of 150°C or lower; and

(F) ~~a drying step of~~ drying the washed adamantane crystals at a pressure of 5 to 101 kPa and a temperature of 20 to 60°C,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein a mass ratio of endo-trimethylenenorbornane to adamantane ~~each~~ contained in materials ~~to be~~ subjected to ~~the crystallization~~ step (C) (endo-trimethylenenorbornane/adamantane) is 0.25 or lower and wherein the washed adamantane crystals have an APHA color of 5 or lower.

2. (Currently Amended) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 1, wherein a solid catalyst is used in ~~the reaction step of~~ isomerizing the ~~starting material~~ trimethylenenorbornane.

3. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 2, wherein the solid catalyst is a metal-carrying solid acid catalyst.

4. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 2, wherein the solid catalyst comprises aluminum chloride.

5. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 3, wherein the metal in the metal-carrying solid acid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of metals belonging to Groups 8 to 10 of the periodic table.

6. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 3, wherein the metal in the metal-carrying solid acid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium, and platinum.

7. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 1, wherein the (A) isomerization is conducted in a fixed bed continuous reactor which is filled with a catalyst and is continuously supplied with trimethylenenorbornane.

8. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 1, wherein the (A) isomerization is conducted at a reaction temperature of about 150 to 500 $^{\circ}$C and a pressure of normal pressure to about 20 MPa, optionally in the presence of hydrogen.

9. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 1, wherein the (A) isomerization is conducted in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a monocyclic, saturated hydrocarbon compound, an aromatic compound, water, and an alcohol.

10. (New) A process for producing adamantane according to claim 1, wherein the (A) isomerization is conducted in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group

consisting of cyclopentane, cyclohexane, ethylcyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, anthracene, phenol, benzaldehyde, benzoic acid, benzyl alcohol, anisole, aniline, nitrobenzene, chlorbenzene , bromobenzene, methyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, tert-butyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, ethylene glycol and glycerin.